

CLAIMS

1. A method for identifying an antibody molecule that binds to an unmasked epitope on a preselected antigen, having a preselected first epitope and at least one additional epitope, comprising the steps of:
 - a) contacting the preselected antigen having the preselected first epitope, with a first antibody molecule, under conditions which allow the first epitope of the antigen to bind to the first antibody molecule and form an immunocomplex;
 - b) contacting a second antibody molecule with the immunocomplex such that the second antibody molecule binds to a second, unmasked epitope on the antigen; and
 - c) removing the second antibody molecule bound to the second epitope.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first antibody molecule is bound to a solid support.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first antibody is an Fv or an Fab fragment.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the first antibody molecule is a monoclonal antibody molecule.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the first antibody molecule is an anti-glycoprotein D antibody.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the preselected antigen is selected from the group consisting of a bacterial, viral, parasitic, fungal, tumor and self-antigen.

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7. The method of claim 6, wherein the viral antigen is selected from the group of viruses consisting of hepatitis B virus (HBV), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), influenza A virus, Epstein Barr virus (EBV), herpes simplex virus (HSV), respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), human cytomegalovirus (HCMV), varicella zoster virus (VZV), and measles virus.
 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the viral antigen is HSV glycoprotein D.
 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the second antibody is an Fv or an Fab fragment.
 10. The method of claim 1, wherein the first epitope is a non-neutralizing epitope.
 11. The method of claim 1, wherein the second epitope is a neutralizing epitope.
 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the second antibody is in a combinatorial library.
 13. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of isolating the second antibody molecule.
 14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of sequencing the nucleic acid of the second antibody molecule.
 15. An antibody molecule identified by the method of claim 1.

16. The antibody molecule of claim 15, wherein the antibody molecule has the specificity of an antibody molecule produced by *E. coli* ATCC 69522.

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